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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 16771 SENT SECSTATE NATO INFO CINCEUR DATED OCT 24.

QUOTE

UNCLAS BONN 16771

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: SECRETARY CALLAWAY'S STATEMENT RE ADDITIONAL US COMBAT TROOPS IN EUROPE

REF: (A) USNATO 5911, (B) BONN 16593

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF REFORGER PRESS RELEASE NO. 74-120 CONCERNING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HOWARD CALLAWAY'S OCTOBER 18TH REMARKS ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL US COMBAT TROOPS TO EUROPE:

"KATTERBACH (ARMY) 18 OCT - SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HOWARD H. CALLAWAY UNVEILED ARMY PLANS TO BUILD UP U.S. ARMY COMBAT STRENGTH IN EUROPE BY CUTTING BACK ON SUPPORT TROOP UNITS AND REDUCING THE NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS AT OVERSEAS BASES.

"HIS REMARKS CAME DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE
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AT REFORGER 74 CONTROL SITE HERE TODAY. HE EM-

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PHASIZED THAT THIS WAS NOT A POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT BUT A PLAN THAT WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN ORDER TO MEET THE DESIRES OF CONGRESS WHICH HAS CALLED FOR A REDUCTION IN SUPPORT ELEMENTS OVERSEAS WHILE ALSO MAINTAINING THE CURRENT SIZE OF THE ARMY IN EUROPE.

"THE PLAN, AS OUTLINED BY CALLAWAY, WOULD PLACE A BRIGADE SIZE UNIT OF 6,000 SOLDIERS ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE U.S. AND THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THIS UNIT WOULD SERVE HERE WITHOUT DEPENDENTS IN AN EFFORT TO SHARE DOWN COST.

"CALLAWAY SAID THERE WERE OTHER ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS ADDING COMPANIES TO BATTALIONS ALREADY IN EUROPE. 'BUT IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT WE WILL HAVE BRIGADE TYPE UNITS COME OVER HERE WITHOUT DEPENDENTS,' HE SAID.

"THIS CONTEMPLATED SHIFT IN THE TEETH-TO-TAIL COMBAT RATIO WOULD NOT INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE, ACCORDING TO THE ARMY SECRETARY.

"UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE OF REFORGER, WHICH HE WAS HERE TO OBSERVE, CALLAWAY SAID, 'THE SIZE OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES IS SUFFICIENTLY MORE THAN THE NATO FORCES SO THAT WE WOULD NEED BOTH ADDITIONAL COMBAT FORCES ON THE GROUND AND THOSE THAT CAN DEPLOY HERE.'

"CALLAWAY SPENT 24 HOURS WITH REFORGER TROOPS IN THE FIELD BEFORE DEPARTING FOR FRANKFURT."

COMMENT: THE SUBJECT OF ADDITIONAL U.S. COMBAT TROOPS BEING ASSIGNED TO EUROPE HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. IN THIS CONNECTION SEE REFTEL (B) TYING IN A GERMAN PRESS REPORT TO THE EFFECT

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THAT SECDEF SCHLESINGER IS ABOUT TO VISIT BONN WITH PROPOSED INCREASES IN U.S. COMBAT FORCES STATIONED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.
HILLENBRAND UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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